



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

20 SEPTEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in F Major

J.S. Bach

Greeting for Worship

Allison Wheeler

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Call to Worship (Psalm 105)

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

He opened the rock, and water gushed out;

it flowed through the desert like a river.

For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

Hymn

God, You Call Us to the Waters

tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY ("Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

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God, you call us to the waters where your gracious blessings flow,

Yet we ask: "What should we offer?" "What's the cost?" We want to know.

What we long for — can we earn it? Can we buy it? Can we learn it?

What's the cost? We want to know.

We confess your invitation sounds too wondrous to be true.

Milk and wine and your salvation, living water — gifts from you!

May your waters and your table now remind us you are able

To give life, and life anew.

When we search for things to feed us that will never satisfy,

Lord we pray that you will lead us to the waters you provide.

Help us turn to seek your waters, as repenting sons and daughters;

Lead us to abundant life.

May your church here be a witness to your generosity.

May we share your life and wholeness — gifts of grace, for all and free.

May the poor find here your kingdom; may the seekers find a welcome;

May the hungry come and eat.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God who journeys with us, help us follow you. Forgive us when we drag our feet.

Forgive us when our complaints stop us from being who you call us to be. Help our

hearts see who you are so we can remember who we are called to be. Change us. Change

our world. Form us in the wilderness, in our questioning, on the way.

(Moments for silent confession)

For we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

Remember the wonderful works God has done, God's miracles, and the grace given to the weary, those far off, and those who can't seem to get it right.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Blessing of the Children

Allison Wheeler

Musical Offering

God Our Mother

The Brilliance

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *vocals* George Makhshigian, *vocals*

Lighting the Candle for God's Global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace

Prayer for Illumination

Doug Fondell

The First Lesson – Philippians 1:21-30

Daniel Grout

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

I Surrender All ,

Words by Judson W. Van DeVenter, Music by Winfield S. Weeden

Alexia Rabé, *arrangement, piano, vocals*

Josiah Woodson, *videography, production* Jeff Hohener, *videography*

The Second Lesson – Exodus 16:2-15

Rose Marie Burke

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining'." And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God'."

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Begin Again Victor Greene

Musical Offering Notre Père (The Lord's Prayer) *Maurice Duruflé*
Frédéric Goncalves, soloist

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (*in your mother tongue*) Odette Lockwood-Stewart

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Music For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth *G.F. Handel*
The People That Walked in Darkness
(Offered as a prayer for those suffering from the fires in the US)
Frédéric Goncalves, soloist

Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings Jodi Fondell

Hymn Brethren, We Have Met to Worship tune: HOLY MANNA

***Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.***

***Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.***

***Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.
When God calls us home to heaven, at God's table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.***

Benediction Victor Greene

Congregational Amen

The American Church in Paris re-gathered and also virtual

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the **American Church in Paris** has been dedicated to remaining a vibrant community and to providing online resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and holistic health. Now, in this “post-confinement” period, we are taking steps to re-open the church buildings for worship, schools and other community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all.

Please continue to check our website for the latest news. We have been re-gathering for **Worship in the Sanctuary** on Sundays at 11h. Capacity is limited and seating is reserved because of Covid-19 protocols. To register, please visit acparis.org/register. These services are different from those before the pandemic, but we hope are still honoring to God and inspiring to our congregation and our extended community. We will continue the **Virtual Worship** services on acparis.org for the foreseeable future.

Whether you are one of the thousands of viewers from many different countries who join us for online worship, or new to Paris and seeking a church family, we hope you will be patient until we can meet without restrictions again!

In the meantime, we continue to pursue our mission "**to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.**" God's grace and peace be with you!

Announcements

In need of prayer? During this difficult season of social distancing, our attempts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus bring stressors, worries, and fears that we may be struggling to manage. If you would like members of the lay care ministry team, members of the prayer chain, and the pastoral team to uphold you in prayer during your time of struggle please contact us at prayerrequests@acparis.org

Ushers Needed: ACP is committed to moving forward with **Worship in the Sanctuary** services as Covid-19 protocols allow, and also providing a quality online experience for those not able to return to church for live worship. Volunteers are needed for each service to welcome and seat worshippers in a safe and efficient manner. Training is available and the commitment is for about 2.5 hours on a Sunday. Please do prayerfully consider how you could help out as we continue to adjust to worshiping in new and different ways. Interested? Please email connections@acparis.org.

Ministry Fair: Today, in-person and virtual. The in-person ministry fair will be in the ACP Courtyard after this worship service, and the virtual ministry fair will be online at 14h via Zoom. ACP's groups, Bible studies, fellowships, and activities will be represented, and you will be able to get your questions answered about the ministries in which we serve, and are also served. Join the virtual ministry fair by going to acparis.org/ministryfair for the zoom link.

New Member Orientation: 24 September, 19h30-21h via Zoom. All who are interested in becoming a member at ACP are invited to sign up for the Zoom membership orientation meeting. Please see acparis.org for registration and more details.

Children's Ministries

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: beginning 27 September at 12h45 via Zoom. This virtual monthly bible study is for all children seven and older. We will spend the year studying the Lord's Prayer. Please contact Rev. Allison Wheeler at childrensworsip@acparis.org for more information, and/or register at acparis.org.

Threaded Together: A Children's Ministry Initiative. When it feels like everything is unraveling, we trust in God to thread us together more tightly with Him and with one another. During these days when we cannot safely experience the joy of being all together in person, our Threaded Together initiative offers different ways for us to stay connected, and for parents and children to experience support from church staff, volunteers, and other families. Register at acparis.org/threadedtogether to participate in a family small group. For more information, contact childrensworship@acparis.org.

ACP Children's Music Ministry Fall program 2020: Join us in lifting a joyful noise unto the Lord through voice and instrument, in praise, prayer, and thanksgiving. Though we are not able to rehearse in person (yet!), the ACP children's choirs will continue via virtual choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, and alternating with Zoom rehearsals. Children of all ages are welcome. Whether you have participated in ACP choirs for years, or are new to singing, you have a home here – come and join us! See acparis.org/childrensmusic for registration and more details.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Fall 2020-2021 program *Out There: Together in One Place* For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Adult Ministries

Sandwich Ministry: Wednesdays in September from 17h-18h in the ACP Courtyard. Join us to make sandwiches to be delivered to homeless and refugee populations while following strict Covid-19 protocols. If you would like to help, please contact secretary@acparis.org to sign up.

The Enneagram Journey: Wednesdays: through 25 November, 19h30-21h30 via Zoom. The Enneagram unleashes the potential to understand ourselves and others more fully – what inspires us, what challenges us, what can help us to build healthy relationship to others, what can nurture our personal and corporate walk with God. Register for this virtual study hosted by Pastors Doug and Jodi at acparis.org/enneagram.

Men's Ministry Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays 7h30-8h30, in the ACP Theater. In-house and Zoom option available. Register at acparis.org/men-thursday.

Adult Handbell Choirs: The adult handbell choir ministry program has begun rehearsals: Celebration Ringers on Mondays, and Bronze Ringers on Thursdays. Rehearsals are held in accordance with strict health protocols including masks and social distancing. If you are interested in more information, please contact Fred Gramann at music@acparis.org.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: Women of the Old Testament led by Teri Lee Valluy – beginning 27 September 13h30-14h30 via Zoom. Register at acparis.org/women-sunday.

Alpha and Alpha Campus online: An 11 week course, beginning 1 October, via Zoom. Whether you've got questions, you're new to Christianity or you want to revitalize your faith, the Alpha Course is a safe place to ask questions and explore faith. Each session starts with a video talk, followed by small groups (in English and French). For more information and to register: alpha@acparis.org. Who will YOU invite?

For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see acparis.org.

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers

Interim Senior Pastor
Interim Associate Pastor
Interim Associate Pastor
Youth / Young Adult Pastor
Children's Ministry Director
Director of Music
Contemporary Music Dir.
Youth / Children Music Dir.
Executive Secretary
Wedding Coordinator

The Entire Congregation

The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart
The Rev. Jodi Fondell
The Rev. Doug Fondell
Victor Greene (M.Div.)
The Rev. Allison Wheeler
Fred Gramann
Natalie Raynal
Sara Barton
Heather Walter
Jörg Kaldewey

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www.acparis.org [Twitter.com/AmChurchParis](https://twitter.com/AmChurchParis) [Facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis](https://facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis)

The Ministry of the American Church depends on you

The American Church's operating costs depend primarily on the generosity of its members and alumni around the world who have been touched by its ministry. If you wish your gift to be tax-deductible in the United States, you must make your check payable to our parent organization "The American and Foreign Christian Union" (AFCU) and put the words "for ACP" on the memo line of your check. In France, your gift in Euros is deductible under the category "*réduction pour dons à des organismes d'intérêt général.*" The church issues year-end receipts of giving acceptable for French tax authorities. Contributions in either euros or US dollars are accepted by both the ACP and the AFCU. To find out more about how you can help secure the future of the ACP through bequests, charitable trusts, and other forms of planned giving, please speak to one of the pastors. If you would like to set up recurring electronic fund transfers to facilitate giving, please visit the Reception desk to find out how.



American Church in Paris

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